



∴ Annual Report ∴

OF THE

Medical Officer of Health

AND

Medical Officer for Maternity

and Child Welfare

OF THE

Borough of Taunton

For the Year 1927.

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Public Health Department,
Corporation Street,
Taunton,
3rd May, 1928.

**To the Mayor, Aldermen and Burgesses of the
Borough of Taunton.**

MR. MAYOR, LADIES AND GENTLEMEN,

I have the honour to present to you my annual report on the public health for the year 1927.

Apart from an outbreak of influenza in January and February there was a singular freedom from infectious diseases. The vital statistics are satisfactory, particularly the Infant Mortality Rate which is the lowest recorded.

New legislation coming into force during 1927 included the Public Health (Smoke Abatement) Act, 1926, and the Births and Deaths Registration Act, 1926.

Your Chief Sanitary Inspector and myself have continued to give lectures on topics allied to our duties and are willing to give these when requested.

I must record my appreciation of the practical and continued interest which the Chairman of the Public Health Committee shows in all matters concerning the public health of the town and to the members of the Public Health and Maternity and Child Welfare Committee for their support and approval.

I am indebted to the staff of this department for their loyal help and co-operation.

I am,

Your obedient Servant,

JOHN ALLEN,

Medical Officer of Health.

HEALTH COMMITTEE.

Mr. Alderman West (Chairman).

Mrs. Councillor Barnicott

Mr. Councillor Brown

Mr. Councillor Goodland

Dr. Councillor Joscelyne

Mr. Councillor Lane

Mr. Councillor Loveys

Mr. Councillor Maynard

Mr. Councillor Stainer

MATERNITY AND CHILD WELFARE COMMITTEE.

In addition to the above:—

Mr. Alderman Penny

Mr. Councillor Govier

Dr. W. B. Winckworth ... $\left\{ \begin{array}{l} \text{Representing the Medical Profes-} \\ \text{tion.} \end{array} \right.$

Mrs. Fowler	...	...	{	Representing Taunton Infant Health Society.
Mrs. Webber	...	...		
Miss Upton	...	...		

Mrs. Walker	...	...	} Representing Working Women's Organisations.
Mrs. Yendall	...	...	

Mrs. Yendall ... } Organisations.

STAFF.

*Medical Officer of Health ...	{	John Allen, M.B., CH.B., D.P.H.
*Medical Officer for Maternity and Child Welfare and		
*School Medical Officer ...		

*Medical Officer for Maternity and Child Welfare and John Allen, M.B., CH.B., D.P.H.

*School Medical Officer ...

*Consulting Medical Officer Henry J. Alford, M.D., F.I.C.

*Chief Sanitary Inspector ... { E. C. Farr, M.S.I.A.,
M.R.S.A. (SCOT.), M.I.H.,
A.R.S.I., A.I.S.E.

*Sanitary Inspector ... Ernest Belfield, A.R.S.I., M.S.I.A.

*Health Visitor ... Hilda M. Pain, C.M.B., C.R.S.I.

Clerk G. J. A. Wilkinson.

*Salary contributions made by Exchequer Grants or under the Public Health Acts.

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES.

Water Supply.

This is an upland surface water from the Blagdon Hills. Storage reservoirs on the hills have a capacity of 160 million gallons. The amount in these at the end of the year was 155 million gallons.

The rainfall on this area amounted to 43.57 inches at Blagdon and 42.92 inches at Leigh.

The water from these reservoirs is screened and passed through sand filters at Fulwood. An additional sand filter was put into use in April, making the number of filters three.

There are three lines of mains taking the water to the town, the third being completed in April.

Chemical analysis shows that the water is a soft one, the total hardness being 5.8 deg. and the temporary hardness 1.8 deg.

PREMISES AND OCCUPATIONS CONTROLLED BY BYE-LAWS OR REGULATIONS.

Offensive Trades.

	Number.
Fellmonger, Tanner and Leather Dresser ...	1
Gut Scraper	1
Rag and Bone Dealers	9
Fish Friers	7
Hide and Skin Dealers	2

Other Premises and Occupations.

Bakehouses. (None of these are underground) ... 21

Common Lodging Houses 2

Dairies, Cowsheds and Milkshops 55

(And one retailer of milk in sealed bottles only).

These are:—

	In Borough.	Out of Borough.	Total.
Wholesale distributor only	1	—	1
Producer only	4	—	4
Producer and Retailer	6	16	22
Retailer only	28	1	29
	39	17	57

Milk (Special Designations) Order, 1923.

Grade A. Tuberculin Tested Milk is being sold in the town by one producer, one bottler and five retailers.

INFECTIOUS AND OTHER DISEASES.

The diseases generally notifiable are:—

- Small-pox.
- Cholera.
- Typhus Fever.
- Relapsing and Continued Fevers.
- Scarlet Fever and Scarlatina.
- Diphtheria and Membranous Croup.
- Enteric and Paratyphoid Fevers.
- Puerperal Fever.
- Puerperal Pyrexia.
- Pneumonia, Acute Primary or Influenzal.
- Erysipelas.
- Cerebro-spinal Fever.
- Acute Polio-myelitis.
- Encephalitis Lethargica.
- Acute Polio-encephalitis.
- Malaria.
- Dysentery.
- Trench Fever.
- Ophthalmia Neonatorum.
- Tuberculosis, all varieties.

The following diseases are also notifiable in this area:—

- Measles.
- German Measles.
- Chicken-pox.
- Anthrax.

Tabular details of the cases occurring in 1927 are shown on pages 18 and 19.

These call for little or no comment. The town ratios per 1,000 for Scarlet Fever and Diphtheria were 0.90 and 0.12 as compared with 2.16 and 1.33 for England and Wales.

Five doses of anti-diphtheria serum were supplied to medical practitioners from the stock kept for this purpose at this office.

Small-pox.

The fact that this disease is now endemic in England and Wales, largely owing to the neglect of vaccination and of re-vaccination, has led me to advise the continuation of the notifi-

cation of Chicken-pox and by an order dated the 23rd December, 1926, this disease will continue to be notifiable until the 21st January, 1930.

As the majority of notifications are made by parents it is necessary to confirm these and where these have not been notified by a medical practitioner I visit and make a careful examination in each case.

Tuberculosis.

At the end of 1927 the known number of cases of this disease was :—

	Male.	Female.	Total.
Pulmonary 	163	171	334
Non-pulmonary 	26	23	49
	189	194	383

I must here make mention of the very valuable work which is here being done by the Taunton and District Tuberculosis Care Committee. This Committee provides valuable help in many ways, such as the provision of extra nourishment and special outfits for those going to sanatoria.

Public Health (Prevention of Tuberculosis) Regulations, 1925.

It has not been found necessary to take action under these Regulations.

Public Health Act, 1925, Section 62.

Informal action resulted in the removal of one case where proper precautions could not be taken to prevent the spread of this disease to other members of the household.

NON-NOTIFIABLE INFECTIOUS DISEASES.

There was an almost complete absence of such diseases as Whooping Cough and Mumps during the year.

Influenza.

Influenza was rife in January and February and at least 19 deaths were attributable to this disease.

Diarrhœa and Enteritis.

Two deaths of infants under two years of age were assigned to this cause. Both were bottle fed. Both lived in good housing conditions. One death occurred in April and the other in June.

OTHER DISEASES.

Cancer and Malignant Disease.

The death rate from this disease was 1.6 per 1,000, which is considerably above the average of 1.1 for the past 25 years.

Age and sex incidence:—

			Male.	Female.	Total.
20—	...	...	—	—	—
30—	...	...	—	1	1
40—	...	...	1	3	4
50—	...	...	2	4	6
60—	...	...	5	8	13
70—	...	...	3	7	10
80—	...	...	1	3	4
90+	...	...	1	—	1
			13	26	39

Site and sex incidence:—

			Male.	Female.	Total.
Stomach	...		4	7	11
Bowel	...		4	6	10
Liver	...		1	1	2
Rectum	...		—	2	2
Breast	...		—	4	4
Uterus	...		—	2	2
Throat	...		—	1	1
Mouth	...		2	1	3
Miscellaneous	...		2	2	4
			13	26	39

HOUSING.

The house to house inspection irrespective of complaints by occupants has been continued. The sanitary inspectors examined 381 houses during the year. Many of these were found to have defects requiring repairs or remedying, while closing orders were made as the result of reports on 16 of these.

Assistance to the Housing Committee has been continued and reports submitted on the present housing circumstances of all applicants for council houses living in the Borough.

During the year 1927, 216 houses were erected, including 22 without subsidy, 164 by the Town Council and 30 with subsidy from the Town Council.

Between 1919 and 31st December, 1927, the Council had erected and let 439 houses, including 111 on the Addison Grove and Greenway Crescent site, 104 on the Wellington Road site and 224 on the Lambrook site.

On the 11th October, 1927, the Council approved of the erection of a further 128 houses on the Lambrook site.

MATERNITY AND CHILD WELFARE.

Maternity Home.

At the end of the year the Home was nearing completion. It should prove of very considerable benefit to the mothers and children if advantage is taken of the accommodation provided.

It will have two resident midwives who are also fully trained nurses and who will be able to deal with all ordinary cases.

It is also possible for patients to be attended there by their own doctor if they themselves make arrangements for this.

There is a variable but inclusive fee of from £1 to £3 per week according to the circumstances of the applicant, and applications for admission are to be made to me at my office where circumstances governing the charge can be explained and considered.

Births.

The number registered in 1927 was 351, 195 male and 156 female. Of these 16 were known to be illegitimate.

The birth rate is 14.2 per 1,000 and the illegitimate birth rate 0.6 per 1,000.

The number of notifications received under the Notification of Births Act, 1915, was 365. Of these 244 complied with the full requirements of the Act in that they were made within 36 hours after the birth, 29 being by medical practitioners, 210 by midwives and 5 by parents.

Ten of these notifications were for still births; three male and seven female.

Infant Deaths.

There were 12 deaths of infants under one year of age. The Infant Mortality rate of 34.1 per thousand births is the lowest recorded and compares most favourably with a corresponding rate of 68.0 for the smaller towns in England and Wales.

Infant Welfare Centre.

This is held in the Municipal Offices, perambulators entering from Castle Green. It is open on Tuesdays from 2 to 5 p.m. and was open on 51 occasions during the year.

I have to record a further increase in the attendance; this year the number who attended was 4,182. Medical consultations numbered 1,756. The average for attendance per session was 82 and for consultations 34.4. New babies seen for the first time numbered 88.

Some progress has been made in the scheme for regular medical examination and many mothers have brought their children up for inspection at the intervals recommended, namely:—

For the first year	...	Once per month.
For the second year	...	Every two months.
For the third year	...	Every three months.
For the fourth and fifth years		Every three months.

Crippling Defects.

The Orthopædic Clinic of the Somerset County Council is held in the Municipal Offices, Corporation Street, and the scheme by which the Town Council participate continues.

The Orthopædic Surgeon, Miss Forrester-Brown, M.S., M.D., attends on the second Friday in each month, while the Orthopædic Sister attends every Friday morning. Mrs. Scott has continued to render most valuable help in connection with a band of voluntary helpers, without whom it would be difficult to continue the scheme.

Fifteen children under five years of age were advised to attend and fourteen of these attended. Remedial appliances were prescribed for 11 and 5 have obtained these. Other treatment was prescribed for four children and one has had this.

It is most difficult to get the mothers to understand that defects of this kind can only be remedied by regular and sometimes lengthy treatment.

Work of the Health Visitor.

First Visits.			Re-Visits.		
Under one year	...	318	Under one year	...	1,715
Ante-natal cases	...	25	Between 1 & 2 years		797
Still births	...	43	Between 2 & 3 years		584
Other visits	...	11	Between 3 & 5 years		252
			Ante-natal cases	...	114
		397			3,462

Total visits 3,859.

Ophthalmia Neonatorum.

Three cases were notified and all made complete recoveries. Nursing aid was supplied to two of the cases at a total cost of £4 16s. 8d.

No copies of reports from midwives stating that medical aid was required on account of eye discharge were received from the Somerset C.C., the authority under the Midwives Acts.

Cases.			Final Result.			
Notified.	Treated.		Vision Unimpaired	Vision Impaired.	Total Blindness.	Deaths.
	At Home.	In Hospital.				
3	3	—	3	—	—	—

Puerperal Fever and Puerperal Pyrexia.

Under the Public Health (Puerperal Fever and Puerperal Pyrexia) Regulations, 1926, power was given to provide certain facilities for women suffering from such conditions. The facilities you provide include:—

Bacteriological examination of lochia and discharges (through the laboratories of the Somerset C.C. at Weston-super-Mare).

Provision of anti-streptococcic serum for necessitous cases when required by the medical practitioner in attendance.

Nursing aid for suitable cases by the Taunton District Nursing Association at the request of the Medical Officer of Health.

In the three cases of pyrexia notified the practitioners notifying stated that no facilities were required.

Milk (Mothers and Children) Orders.

Under this scheme milk is provided in quantities of one pint per head to children under three years of age and to mothers during the last three months of pregnancy. Before this is supplied the applicant has to furnish details of the family's total income and these are verified by reference to the sources of the income. Where the income is below a scale varying according to the number in family the milk is ordered for a period not exceeding 28 days. These orders are renewable on application.

The number of families supplied was 84. The number of pints (including dried milk) ordered, 15,112. Cost £178 4s. 3½d.

STATISTICS & TABLES, 1927.

Appendix I. GENERAL STATISTICS.

Area, in statute acres ...	...	...	...	...	...	2,015
Population, estimated at mid-year—						
for death rate ...	...	...	...	...	...	24,360
for birth rate ...	...	...	...	...	...	24,560
Number of inhabited houses, 1921—						
(a) pre-extension ...	...	...	...	...	...	5,021
(b) post-extension ...	...	...	...	...	...	5,664
Sum represented by a penny rate (District Rate) ...	...	...	...	...	...	£440

Appendix II. VITAL STATISTICS.

Density of population over whole area, per acre ...	...	...	...	...	...	12.1
Births registered—						
Male ...	...	...	...	...	...	195
Female ...	...	...	...	...	...	156
					—	351
Births registered as illegitimate—						
Male ...	...	...	...	...	...	11
Female ...	...	...	...	...	...	5
					—	16
Birth rate ...	...	...	...	...	...	14.2
Birth rate, illegitimate ...	...	...	...	...	...	0.6
Deaths, after correction for transfers—						
Male ...	...	...	...	...	...	158
Female ...	...	...	...	...	...	181
					—	339
Death rate, crude ...	...	...	...	...	...	13.9
Death rate, standardised ...	...	...	...	...	...	12.2
Deaths of infants under one year—						
Legitimate ...	...	...	...	...	...	10
Illegitimate ...	...	...	...	...	...	2
					—	12

Infant mortality per thousand births	...	...	...	34.1
Infant mortality (under one month) per thousand births...	...	...	...	22.7
Still births per thousand births registered	...	...	...	28.4
Deaths, female, in consequence of child birth—				
(a) from sepsis	...	...	...	Nil.
(b) from other causes	...	...	...	Nil.
Puerperal Fever rate per thousand births	...	...	...	Nil.
Deaths from Measles, all ages	...	...	...	Nil.
Deaths from Whooping Cough, all ages	...	...	...	Nil.
Deaths from Diarrhoea, under 2 years of age	...	...	...	2
Death rate, Pulmonary Tuberculosis	...	...	...	0.7
Death rate, Non-Pulmonary Tuberculosis	...	...	...	0.16
Death rate, Cancer	...	...	...	1.6
Natural increase per 1,000 of population	...	...	...	0.5

VITAL STATISTICS, ENGLAND AND WALES, 1927.

Birth rate	...	...	...	...	...	...	16.7
Death rate	...	...	...	...	...	...	12.3
Infantile Mortality rate	...	...	...	...	...	...	69.0

Smaller Towns.

Birth rate	...	...	...	...	...	...	16.4
Death rate	...	...	...	...	...	...	11.3
Infantile Mortality rate	...	...	...	...	...	...	68.0

Appendix III. CAUSES OF DEATH, 1927.

							Male.	Female.	Total.
1.	Enteric Fever	...	...	...	...	...	—	—	—
2.	Small-pox	...	...	...	...	...	—	—	—
3.	Measles	...	...	...	...	...	—	—	—
4.	Scarlet Fever	...	...	...	...	...	—	—	—
5.	Whooping Cough	...	...	...	...	...	—	—	—
6.	Diphtheria	...	...	...	...	...	—	—	—
7.	Influenza	...	...	...	...	...	11	8	19
8.	Encephalitis Lethargica	...	...	...	...	...	1	—	1
9.	Meningococcal Meningitis	...	...	...	...	...	—	—	—
10.	Tuberculosis of respiratory system	...	...	...	...	...	4	13	17
11.	Other tuberculous diseases	...	...	...	...	...	1	3	4
12.	Cancer, malignant disease	...	...	...	...	...	13	26	39
13.	Rheumatic Fever	...	...	...	...	...	—	—	—
14.	Diabetes	...	...	...	...	...	4	1	5
15.	Cerebral hæmorrhage, etc.	...	...	...	...	...	10	13	23
16.	Heart disease	...	...	...	...	...	20	30	50
17.	Arterio-sclerosis	...	...	...	...	...	5	2	7
18.	Bronchitis	...	...	...	...	...	17	19	36
19.	Pneumonia (all forms)	...	...	...	...	...	10	7	17
20.	Other respiratory diseases	...	...	...	...	...	4	4	8
21.	Ulcer of the stomach or duodenum	...	...	...	...	...	2	2	4
22.	Diarrhœa, etc. (under 2 years)	...	...	...	...	...	1	1	2
23.	Appendicitis and typhlitis	...	...	...	...	...	1	1	2
24.	Cirrhosis of liver	...	...	...	...	...	1	2	3
25.	Acute and chronic nephritis	...	...	...	...	...	4	4	8
26.	Puerperal sepsis	...	...	...	...	...	—	—	—
27.	Other diseases and accidents of pregnancy and parturition	...	...	...	...	...	—	—	—
28.	Congenital debility and malformation, pre- mature birth	...	...	...	...	...	3	4	7
29.	Suicide	...	...	...	...	...	2	—	2
30.	Other deaths from violence	...	...	...	...	...	7	—	7
31.	Other defined diseases	...	...	...	...	...	37	40	77
32.	Causes ill-defined or unknown	...	...	...	...	...	—	1	1
							158	181	339

Appendix IV. NOTIFIABLE INFECTIOUS DISEASES, 1927.

DISEASE.	AGE GROUPS OF ALL CASES NOTIFIED.											Total of all Ages	Cases Admitted to Hospital	Deaths
	Under 1 year	1 to 2 years	2 to 3 years	3 to 4 years	4 to 5 years	5 to 10 years	10 to 15 years	15 to 20 years	20 to 35 years	35 to 45 years	45 to 65 years	65 years and over		
Small-pox	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Scarlet Fever	—	—	1	—	2	6	9	4	—	—	—	—	20	—
Diphtheria	—	—	—	—	—	1	1	—	1	—	—	—	2	—
Enteric Fever, including Paratyphoid	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Puerperal Fever	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
" Pyrexia	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	3	—	—	—	—	—
Pneumonia—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Acute Primary	—	1	—	1	—	3	2	2	2	2	9	—	22	5
Influenzal	—	1	1	—	1	1	1	—	3	3	6	7	24	6
Erysipelas	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	1	2	—	4	—
Encephalitis Lethargica	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	1	—
Cerebro-Spinal Fever	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Ophthalmia Neonatorum	3	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	3	—
Measles	1	—	1	1	—	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	5	—
German Measles	—	—	—	—	—	3	—	3	1	—	—	—	8	—
Chicken-pox	7	5	5	15	12	64	12	4	1	1	1	—	127	—
Anthrax	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Dysentery	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	1	—

Appendix V.

TUBERCULOSIS.

Age Periods.	New Cases.				Deaths.			
	Pulmonary.		Non-pulmonary		Pulmonary.		Non-pulmonary.	
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
0 —	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
1 —	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—
5 —	6	2	2	—	—	—	1	—
10 —	3	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
15 —	—	3	—	—	—	1	—	—
20 —	2	7	—	2	—	2	—	—
25 —	2	10	1	—	2	5	—	—
35 —	4	3	—	1	1	3	—	1
45 —	1	3	—	1	—	2	—	1
55 —	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1
65 +	2	1	—	—	1	—	—	—
Totals	20	29	4	4	4	13	1	3

Appendix VI.

ANALYSIS OF THE CAUSES OF DEATH OF INFANTS
UNDER ONE YEAR IN 1927.

CAUSE.			Under 1 week	1 to 2 weeks	2 to 3 weeks	3 to 4 weeks	Total under 1 month	1 to 3 months	3 to 6 months	6 to 9 months	9 to 12 months	Total under 1 year ^a
Measles ..	..	..	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Whooping Cough ..	..	..	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Chicken Pox ..	..	..	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Tuberculosis ..	..	..	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Bronchitis ..	..	..	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	2
Broncho-Pneumonia ..	..	..	—	—	—	—	—	1	1	—	—	—
Pneumonia ..	..	..	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	2
Diarrhœa, etc. ..	..	..	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	1	2
Immature Birth ..	..	..	1	—	1	—	2	—	—	—	—	1
Marasmus ..	..	..	1	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—
Congenital Defects ..	..	..	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1
Inanition ..	..	..	1	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	3
Difficult Labour ..	..	..	3	—	—	—	3	—	—	—	—	—
Overlying ..	..	..	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Congenital Syphilis ..	..	..	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Malpresentation ..	..	..	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Convulsions ..	..	..	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1
Asphyxia ..	..	..	1	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—
Total ..	..	..	7	—	1	—	8	1	2	—	1	12

Legitimate 10.

Illegitimate 2.

Appendix VII.
ANALYSIS OF AGES AT DEATH OF INFANTS
UNDER 5 YEARS IN 1927.

Age.	MALE.		FEMALE.		Total.
	Legitimate.	Illegitimate.	Legitimate.	Illegitimate.	
Under one day	1	—	4	1	6
1 day and under 7 days ...	1	—	—	—	1
1 week and under 4 weeks ...	1	—	—	—	1
1 month and under 3 months ...	1	—	—	—	1
3 months and under 6 months ...	1	—	1	—	2
6 months and under 9 months ..	—	—	—	—	—
9 months and under 12 months ...	—	—	—	1	1
1 year and under 2 years ...	2	—	—	—	2
2 years and under 3 years ...	—	—	—	1	1
3 years and under 4 years ...	—	—	—	—	—
4 years and under 5 years ...	—	—	—	—	—
	7	—	5	3	15

Appendix VIII.

HOUSING STATISTICS FOR THE YEAR 1927.

Number of houses erected during the year—

(a) Total number	...	...	...	...	...	...	216
(b) With State assistance under the Housing Acts—							
(i) By the Local Authority	...	...	...	...	...	...	164
(ii) By other bodies or persons	...	...	...	...	...	...	30

Appendix IX.

I. Unfit Dwelling Houses.

Inspection—

(1) Total number of houses inspected for housing defects under Public Health or Housing Acts	...	...	...	...	...	1085
(2) Number of dwelling houses which were inspected and recorded under the Housing (Inspection of District) Regulations, 1910, or the Housing Consolidated Regulations, 1925	...	...	...	...	...	381
(3) Number of dwelling houses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation	...	...	...	...	...	16
(4) Number of dwelling houses (exclusive of those in the preceding sub-head) found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for human occupation	...	...	...	...	...	341

II. Remedy of Defects without service of Formal Notices.

Number of defective dwelling houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the Local Authority or their officers	...	...	...	...	...	257
---	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----

III. Action under Statutory Powers.

A. Proceedings under Section 3 of the Housing Act, 1925.

(1) Number of dwelling houses in respect of which notices were served requiring repairs	...	...	...	...	...	—
(2) Number of dwelling houses which were rendered fit after service of formal notice—						
(a) By owners	...	...	...	...	...	—
(b) By Local Authority in default of owners	...	...	...	...	...	—

- (3) Number of dwelling houses in respect of which Closing Orders became operative in pursuance of declarations by owners of intention to close ... —

B. Proceedings under Public Health Acts.

- (1) Number of dwelling houses in respect of which notices were served requiring defects to be remedied 44
- (2) Number of dwelling houses in which defects were remedied after service of formal notices—
- (a) By owners 44
- (b) By Local Authority in default of owners ... —

C. Proceedings under Sections 11, 14 and 15 of the Housing Act, 1925.

- (1) Number of representations made with a view to the making of Closing Orders 16
- (2) Number of dwelling houses in respect of which Closing Orders were made 16
- (3) Number of dwelling houses in respect of which Closing Orders were determined, the dwelling houses having been rendered fit *2
- (4) Number of dwelling houses in respect of which Demolition Orders were made †5
- (5) Number of dwelling houses demolished in pursuance of Demolition Orders ‡1

*Two houses converted into one, resulting in one fit house.

†One Demolition Order determined. Three appeals against demolition are outstanding.

‡Three closed houses were demolished by the owners without Demolition Orders being made.

GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES IN THE AREA.

Hospitals provided or subsidised by the Taunton Town Council or the Somerset County Council.

A. (1) **Fever.**

The hospital for these cases is on the Cheddon Road. It has four wards taking eight cases each, an administrative block and a galvanized iron building which is now used as a discharge ward.

This hospital is administered by a Joint Committee and serves the Borough and Taunton Rural District.

(2) **Small-pox.**

The hospital for cases of this disease is at Cossington, near Bridgwater, and 15 miles from Taunton. It is provided by the Somerset County Council, and has beds for eight cases.

B. (1) **Tuberculosis.**

There is a sanatorium of 20 beds (9 female and 11 male) adjoining the Fever Hospital on the Cheddon Road. It is provided and maintained by the Somerset County Council.

(2) **Maternity.**

None. But the scheme for the erection of a home of four beds in conjunction with the Taunton District Nursing Association has been approved and the home is almost completed.

(3) **Children.**

None. A ward of 15 beds in the Taunton and Somerset Hospital is set apart for children from the Borough and surrounding areas.

(4) **Other.**

The Taunton and Somerset Hospital in East Reach, Taunton, is the general hospital serving the Borough and surrounding areas. It has 107 beds for both medical and surgical cases.

The Union Infirmary in Trinity Street has 76 beds, which include three in a maternity ward.

Institutional Provision for Unmarried Mothers.

None.

Institutional Provision for Illegitimate Infants and Homeless Children.

Homeless Children.—The Taunton Board of Guardians have a separate home for 30 children on the Cheddon Road.

Ambulance Facilities.

(a) For Infectious Cases.

A motor ambulance holding two stretcher cases is kept at the Isolation Hospital.

(b) For Non-infectious and Accident Cases.

An ambulance on a Ford chassis is provided and maintained by the Red Cross Ambulance Committee.

Clinics and Treatment Centres.

MATERNITY AND CHILD WELFARE CENTRE. One. This is provided and maintained by the Taunton Town Council and is held in the Municipal Offices in Corporation Street. It is open for consultations each Tuesday from 2 to 5 p.m.

DAY NURSERY. None.

SCHOOL CLINIC. One. This is provided by the Borough Education Committee and is open each school day. It is used for the treatment of minor ailments, visual defects and as a dental clinic.

ORTHOPÆDIC CLINIC. One. This is provided by the Somerset County Council, while the Town Council pay for cases attending on an attendance basis. It is held in rooms provided by the Town Council and for which no charge is made.

TUBERCULOSIS DISPENSARY. One. This is provided by the Somerset County Council and is held in special premises in Priory Avenue. It is open for Taunton cases on Mondays.

VENEREAL DISEASES CLINIC. One. This is provided by the Somerset County Council and is held in the Out Patients' Department of the Taunton and Somerset Hospital. The times for attendance are:—Men, on Saturdays from 4 to 5 p.m. and on Mondays at 7.30 p.m.; Women, on Tuesdays at 2.30 p.m. and Mondays at 6 p.m.

Public Health Officers of the Local Authority.

See page 4.

Professional Nursing in the Home.

(a) General.

The Taunton District Nursing Association have two nurses who devote their whole time to this.

(b) Infectious Diseases.

The Taunton District Nursing Association have agreed with the Taunton Town Council to supply nursing aid when requested to cases of Measles and Whooping-cough at 10d. per visit, to Ophthalmia Neonatorum (including dressings) at 8d. per visit, and to Puerperal Fever and Puerperal Pyrexia at 1/- per visit.

Midwives.

There are five, who live and practise in Taunton. Two of these belong to the Taunton District Nursing Association. They are not employed or subsidised by the Taunton Town Council.

Chemical and Laboratory Work.

The laboratories of the Somerset County Council at Weston-super-Mare are used for these purposes, including swabs for diphtheria, blood for typhoid and food poisoning, smears for gonococci and food suspected as being the cause of poisoning.

Water samples have also been submitted for chemical and bacteriological analysis.

LEGISLATION IN FORCE.

Acts (Adoptive) in force in this Area.

	Date adopted.
Public Health Acts, Amendment Act, 1890	November, 1890.
Infectious Diseases Prevention Act, 1890	October, 1890.
Public Libraries Act, 1892	October, 1902.
Private Street Works Act, 1892	June, 1906.
Notification of Births Act, 1907	August, 1908.
Public Health Acts, Amendment Act, 1907	May, 1909.

Provisional Order Confirmation (Taunton
Extension) Act, 1921

9th November, 1921.

Public Health Act, 1925.

Part II. Streets and Buildings

Part III. Sanitary Provision

Part IV. Verminous Premises, etc.

Part V. Watercourses, Streams, etc. 22nd February, 1926.

**Bye-laws and Local Regulations (Public Health)
in force in this Area.**

	Date adopted.
Bye-laws, New Streets and Buildings	14th October, 1924.
„ Cleansing of Footways and Pavements	10th January, 1879.
„ Nuisances	„ „
„ Common Lodging Houses	„ „
„ Offensive Trades (Fellmonger, Tanner and Leather Dresser)	27th April, 1883.
„ Tents, Vans and Sheds and similar structures used for human habitation	25th October, 1921.
„ Slaughterhouses	1st November, 1921.
„ Offensive Trades (Blood boiler, Blood drier, Bone boiler, Soap boiler, Tallow melter, Fat melter, Fat extractor, Tripe boiler, Glue maker and Size maker, Gut scraper, Rag and Bone Dealer, Fish frier, Dealer in Hides and Skins)	10th January, 1922.

The administration of the Factory and Workshop Act, 1901, in connection with
FACTORIES, WORKSHOPS AND WORKPLACES.

1.—INSPECTION OF FACTORIES, WORKSHOPS AND WORKPLACES.

Including Inspections made by Sanitary Inspectors or Inspectors of Nuisances.

Premises. (1)	Number of		
	Inspections, (2)	Written Notices. (3)	Prosecutions. (4)
Factories	166	4	
(Including Factory Laundries)			
Workshops	139	10	
(Including Workshop Laundries)			
Workplaces	42	...	
(Other than Outworkers' premises)			
Total	347	14	

2.—DEFECTS FOUND IN FACTORIES, WORKSHOPS AND WORKPLACES.

Particulars. (1)	Number of Defects.			Number of Prosecutions (5)
	Found. (2)	Remedied. (3)	Referred to H.M. Inspector. (4)	
Nuisances under the Public Health Acts :—				
Want of cleanliness	8	8	--	—
Other nuisances	1	1	--	—
Sanitary accommodation—				
Insufficient	1	1	—	—
Unsuitable or defective ...	4	4	--	—
Total	14	14		

ANNUAL REPORT

— of the —

SENIOR SANITARY INSPECTOR

for the year 1927.

To The Mayor, Aldermen, and Burgesses.

MR. MAYOR, LADIES AND GENTLEMEN,

I have the honour to submit my Annual Report for the twelve months ending 31st December, 1927.

During the year an inspection has been made of most of the houses on the Wellington Road and Lambrook housing sites. No cases of overcrowding were found, and the houses appear to be generally clean and well kept.

It is pleasing to state that the effect of the transference of families to better housing conditions is reflected in the standard maintained. In a few cases, however, occasional visits have been considered advisable.

Food Supply.

The standard maintained continues to be good, a very gratifying feature being the manner in which the butchers generally have co-operated with us in attaining the objects aimed at in the Meat Regulations.

During the year there was one prosecution for non-compliance with the Acts and Regulations. The case was heard before the Borough Magistrates on the 7th December, 1927, and resulted in fines amounting to £20 being imposed in respect of three out of the four charges brought.

Summary of Visits and Inspections.

Houses inspected (for detail see report of M.O.H.)	...	1085
General inspections		476
Re-inspections		911
Offensive Trades:—		
Rag and Bone dealers		20
Fish friers		29
Hide and Skin depôts		10
Gut scrapers		5
Tanners		4

Dairies, Cowsheds, and Milkshops	...	...	...	...	213
Bakehouses	...	...	...	...	59
Tents, Vans and Sheds	..	...	...	...	92
Common Lodging Houses	...	...	...	...	26
Outworkers' premises	...	...	...	...	193
Stables and manure receptacles	...	...	...	...	86
Infectious diseases, in connection with	...	...	...	...	289
Slaughterhouses	...	...	...	...	696
Foodshops (including Parade and Markets)	...	...	...	...	329
Drainwork, in connection with	...	...	...	...	292
Smoke visits and observations	...	...	...	...	26

Work done.

Cases of overcrowding abated	...	...	...	...	18
Tenants required to cleanse premises	...	...	...	...	23
Verminous premises cleansed and purified	...	...	...	...	9
Nuisances at Tents, Vans and Sheds	...	...	...	...	2
Animals removed, being improperly kept	...	...	...	...	17
Removals of Manure and other refuse	...	...	...	...	21
Manure receptacles provided or repaired	...	...	...	...	3
Stables repaved and drained	...	...	...	...	2
Houses cleansed and purified	...	...	...	...	193
Defective roofs repaired	...	...	...	...	51
„ shutes and gutters cleared, repaired or renewed	...	...	...	...	35
„ windows repaired	...	...	...	...	50
„ floors repaired	...	...	...	...	41
„ stairs repaired	...	...	...	...	7
„ troughs and waste-pipes repaired	...	...	...	...	13
„ coppers repaired or renewed	...	...	...	...	8
„ ceilings repaired	...	...	...	...	73
„ walls repaired	...	...	...	...	108
„ grates and flues repaired	...	...	...	...	21
New troughs provided	...	...	...	...	29
Drains tested	...	...	...	...	57
„ cleared, cleansed and repaired	...	...	...	...	55
„ exposed for examination	...	...	...	...	13
Inspection and intercepting chambers constructed	...	...	...	...	7
Rainwater downspouts disconnected from drains	...	...	...	...	10
Water-closets, new, provided	...	...	...	...	5
„ repaired	...	...	...	...	63
„ unchoked and cleansed	...	...	...	...	21
„ provided with flushing cisterns	...	...	...	...	7
Courtyards repaired	...	...	...	...	8
Yards paved	...	...	...	...	4
Smoke nuisances abated	...	...	...	...	3

Samples of Milk (Grade A. T.T.) taken for bacteriological examination	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
Total number of Informal Notices served	...	...	...	...	...	...	418
„ Statutory	„	...	...	...	...	...	51
Interviews with owners or agents	...	...	...	...	...	...	200

Disinfection.

Rooms:—

Tuberculosis	...	...	...	...	...	...	50
Scarlet Fever	...	...	...	...	...	...	24
Diphtheria	...	...	...	...	...	...	3
Other diseases	...	...	...	...	...	...	7
Total							84

Bedding, Clothing and other articles:—

Tuberculosis	...	...	...	...	...	...	281
Other infectious diseases	...	...	...	...	...	...	86
Verminous and scabies	...	...	...	...	...	...	56
Military and miscellaneous	...	...	...	...	...	...	594
Total							1,017

Number of articles destroyed 14

Number of premises from which infectious articles were removed for disinfection 56

The van used for the removal of clothing and bedding to the steam disinfector has been disinfected 56 times.

Meat and other Foods Inspection.

Notices received under Section 8, Public Health (Meat) Regulations, 1924	...	...	...	...	...	169
Notices received under Section 8, par. 2, Public Health (Meat) Regulations, 1924	...	...	...	...	...	3
Notices received under Section 9, Public Health (Meat) Regulations, 1924	...	...	...	...	...	28
Visits made to Slaughterhouses	...	...	...	...	...	696
„ Foodshops (including Parade and Markets)	...	...	...	...	...	329
Number of formal seizures of food-stuffs	...	...	...	...	...	9
Total number of condemnations	...	...	...	...	...	333

Classification of Diseases.

GENERALIZED TUBERCULOSIS.

Carcases.

Cattle	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	3
Swine	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	20

LOCALIZED TUBERCULOSIS.

Part carcasses condemned, including heads and offals—

(a) In bovines	...	...	...	...	...	...	5
(b) In swine	...	...	...	...	...	...	223

Weight of tuberculous meat condemned—

4 tons 7 cwts. 1 qr. 8 lbs.

OTHER DISEASES.

(Hydræmia, Septicæmia, Pyæmia, Inflammation, etc.)

					Carcases.	Part carcases.
Beef	...	...	...	...	3	17
Mutton	...	...	...	...	3	4
Pork	...	...	...	...	8	52

Weight of same—1 ton 13 cwts. 3 qrs. 12 lbs.

Other Foods condemned.

Tinned beef	...	...	...	...	...	...	10 lbs.
Tripe	...	...	...	...	...	...	69 „
Tinned sardines	...	...	...	...	...	...	8 „
„ tomatoes	...	...	...	...	...	...	4 „
„ pears	...	...	...	...	...	...	15 „
„ loganberries	...	...	...	...	...	...	12 „
„ salmon	...	...	...	...	...	...	34 „

Total weight of meat and other foods condemned—

6 tons 2 cwts. 2 qrs. 4 lbs.

Number of animals slaughtered in the Borough during the year—

Bullocks	...	...	...	...	...	...	1,012
Calves	...	...	...	...	...	...	765
Sheep	...	...	...	...	...	...	4,066
Pigs	...	...	...	...	...	...	13,727

Total 19,570

Meteorological Report.

The observations below are recorded at the Municipal Buildings and Vivary Park.

The daily rainfall and the total rainfall for the year were sent to the British Rainfall Organisation, Air Ministry, London, S.W. Weekly reports on the rainfall and sunshine were also supplied to the local press.

The highest observed reading of the barometer during the year was 30.53 on the 10th January, at 9 a.m., whilst the lowest was 28.75 on 22nd December at the same hour.

The highest temperature registered in the Stephenson Screen during the year was 77.0 on August 4th. The lowest was 17.0 on December 17th.

The day of the highest mean temperature of the air was August 31st, and the value for that day was 68.0. The day of the lowest mean temperature was 17th December, when 26.0 was registered.

The mean temperature for the year was 50.9 as compared with 50.46 for 1926.

The greatest duration of bright sunshine upon any one day was 15.0 hours recorded on July 17th.

May was the sunniest month with 215.25 hours of bright sunshine, as compared with 251.75 hours in June, 1926, and 350.5 hours in June, 1925. July was again the warmest month. December was the coldest as compared with November in 1925 and 1926. The total amount of bright sunshine for the year was 1,455 hours as compared with 1,459 hours in 1926, and 1,694.5 hours in 1925. There were 81 sunless days in the year, the same as during 1926 and as compared with 46 sunless days in 1925.

The heaviest fall of rain in any one "rainfall" day, *i.e.*, 24 hours ending at 9 a.m. next day, was 1.3 inches on February 1st, as compared with 1.56 inches on the 8th November, 1926. September headed the months with a total of 5.3 inches of rain, January coming next with 3.932 inches; whilst May was lowest with 1.07 inches.

Rain fell on 202 days, and the total rainfall for the year was 33.917 inches, as compared with 29.095 inches for 1926 with 166 wet days for the same year.

1927 has been a wet, cold year with not much sunshine.

I am,

Your obedient servant,

E. C. FARR,

Chief Sanitary Inspector.

METEOROLOGICAL TABLE FOR 1927.

MONTH.	Barometer.			Thermometer.			Sunshine		Rainfall.		
	Mean.	Highest.	Lowest.	Mean.	Highest.	Lowest.	Hours.	Sunless Days.	Inches.	Days Rain fell	Days with .04 or more
January	29.77	30.53	29.14	42.4°	55°	20°	45.75	15	3.932	24	19
February	30.00	30.51	29.13	40.6°	53°	19°	61.25	12	3.63	15	11
March	29.67	30.37	29.10	46.0°	62°	29°	106.00	3	3.605	20	13
April	29.94	30.35	29.41	47.1°	72°	25°	168.75	2	1.525	13	6
May	30.00	30.38	29.59	53.6°	75°	27°	215.25	1	1.07	9	5
June	29.89	30.24	29.47	55.98°	71°	36°	212.75	0	1.935	16	9
July	29.84	30.19	29.41	73.0°	76°	42°	156.5	3	2.625	18	12
August	29.80	30.30	29.00	60.8°	77°	42°	210.0	1	2.825	18	16
September	29.77	30.20	29.12	56.3°	76°	32°	101.25	4	5.30	23	19
October	30.01	30.45	29.26	51.8°	66°	32°	103.5	4	1.925	17	7
November	29.91	30.42	29.24	44.6°	65°	26°	56.5	14	2.89	17	13
December	29.79	30.47	28.75	38.6°	55°	17°	18.25	22	2.655	12	8



